

Information:

In July 1999, based on satisfactory performance reports submitted by Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Murray State University, and Western Kentucky University, the Council approved continuation funding in 1999-2000 for the Rural Allied Health and Nursing (RAHN) programs. The Kentucky General Assembly, through the 1990-92 appropriations bill, established the RAHN program and has continued to fund it through the Council budget. It is one of several pass-through programs the Council administers.

Since the Council's most recent action, the Council staff requested additional information from the institutions about the effect of RAHN programs. Also, the staff performed an independent assessment based on information provided by the Kentucky Board of Nursing and the Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association. It is clear from these reports that the RAHN projects are operating as intended and are having a positive effect on the supply of better prepared professionals in rural areas of the state. It is also evident that the need for these efforts remains.

Because of this success, and in the interest of reducing the number of pass-through programs that may unnecessarily consume institutional and Council staff time, funding for the RAHN program will be transferred to the base budgets of the participating institutions. The Council staff has discussed this change with the Governor's Office of Policy and Management, and it is expected that the funding will be included in the Governor's budget recommendation as a base adjustment for the institutions, with a 2.4 percent annual increase over the biennium.

The presidents of the affected institutions have been notified of this change. The attached letter states the Council's expectation that the funds will continue to be used for the purposes originally intended and recommends that the institutions participate more actively in the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University to deliver RAHN programs.

Periodic monitoring of the RAHN projects will continue through the use of data from the Council's comprehensive database and those of the licensure agencies and associations.